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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/243,016	02/02/1999	DIRK LENZ	BEIERSDORF54	1839

7590 03/31/2004

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EXAMINER

GHALI, ISIS A D

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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1615

DATE MAILED: 03/31/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/243,016

Applicant(s)

LENZ ET AL.

Examiner

Isis Ghali

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 20 January 2004.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1,3 and 5-13 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1, 3, 5-13 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____
- ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

The receipt is acknowledged of applicants' request for extension of time, request under 1.114 and amendment, all filed 01/20/2004.

The pending claims are 1, 3, and 5-13.

Continued Examination Under 37 CFR 1.114

1. A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after final rejection. Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, the finality of the previous Office action has been withdrawn pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's submission filed on 01/20/2004 has been entered.

Specification

2. The following guidelines illustrate the preferred layout for the specification of a utility application. These guidelines are suggested for the applicant's use.

Arrangement of the Specification

As provided in 37 CFR 1.77(b), the specification of a utility application should include the following sections in order. Each of the lettered items should appear in upper case, without underlining or bold type, as a section heading. If no text follows the section heading, the phrase "Not Applicable" should follow the section heading:

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- (a) TITLE OF THE INVENTION.
- (b) CROSS-REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATIONS.
- (c) STATEMENT REGARDING FEDERALLY SPONSORED RESEARCH OR DEVELOPMENT.
- (d) INCORPORATION-BY-REFERENCE OF MATERIAL SUBMITTED ON A COMPACT DISC (See 37 CFR 1.52(e)(5) and MPEP 608.05. Computer program listings (37 CFR 1.96(c)), "Sequence Listings" (37 CFR 1.821(c)), and tables having more than 50 pages of text are permitted to be submitted on compact discs.) or REFERENCE TO A "MICROFICHE APPENDIX" (See MPEP § 608.05(a). "Microfiche Appendices" were accepted by the Office until March 1, 2001.)
- (e) BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION.
 - (1) Field of the Invention.
 - (2) Description of Related Art including information disclosed under 37 CFR 1.97 and 1.98.
- (f) BRIEF SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION.
- (g) BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE SEVERAL VIEWS OF THE DRAWING(S).
- (h) DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION.
- (i) CLAIM OR CLAIMS (commencing on a separate sheet).
- (j) ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE (commencing on a separate sheet).
- (k) SEQUENCE LISTING (See MPEP § 2424 and 37 CFR 1.821-1.825. A "Sequence Listing" is required on paper if the application discloses a nucleotide or amino acid sequence as defined in 37 CFR 1.821(a) and if the required "Sequence Listing" is not submitted as an electronic document on compact disc).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

3. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

4. This application currently names joint inventors. In considering patentability of the claims under 35 U.S.C. 103(a), the examiner presumes that the subject matter of

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the various claims was commonly owned at the time any inventions covered therein were made absent any evidence to the contrary. Applicant is advised of the obligation under 37 CFR 1.56 to point out the inventor and invention dates of each claim that was not commonly owned at the time a later invention was made in order for the examiner to consider the applicability of 35 U.S.C. 103(c) and potential 35 U.S.C. 102(e), (f) or (g) prior art under 35 U.S.C. 103(a).

5. Claims 1, 3, 5-13 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over WO 89/04649 ('649), by itself or in combination with US 3,908,645 ('645).

WO '649 discloses an occlusive opaque eye patch comprising:

- 1) an outer polymeric foam layer,
- 2) intermediate foam layer,
- 3) inner pressure sensitive adhesive layer, and
- 4) inner member of black felt which is dimensioned so that it can be placed concentrically within the edges of the adhesive layer so that peripheral portion of the adhesive is exposed to be attached to the skin. The adhesive portion is secured with a cover that can be peeled off at use. See page 1, lines 3-6; page 5, lines 1-12, 23-30; page 6, lines 1-3; page 9, lines 12-17.

WO '649 does not disclose the foam material as polyurethane or the method of making the foam.

US '645 discloses an eye bandage comprising a layer of polyurethane foam, covered with non-woven web material of polyester on one side and pressure sensitive

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adhesive layer on the other side. The pressure sensitive adhesive is covered with a release liner. The reference disclosed foaming the polyurethane between two liners and the foam is then split or slit through its center producing two identical thinner sheets of foam having minimum reflectance (opaque). See abstract; col.1, lines 44-58; col.2, lines 30-43; col.3, lines 31-44; col.4, lines 3-4, 35-50; col.6, lines 9-16.

Applicants failed to show criticality or superior and unexpected results in the sequence of arranging the layers or having the three layers made of foam. Felt is also a kind of foam, is not solid or compact.

Accordingly, it would have been obvious for one having ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to produce an occlusive patch consisting of three layers of foam material, and use the polyurethane of US '645, motivated by the teaching of US '645 that the two layers of foam provide very low reflectance, with reasonable expectation of success of the delivered patch as an ophthalmic light occlusive patch.

Response to Arguments

6. Applicant's arguments filed 01/20/2004 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive. The main gist of applicants' argument against the 103 rejection is that amended claim 1 distinguishes from the cited references because the size range of the foam layers and the density of the dry foam are not disclosed by any of the cited references.

In response to applicant's argument above, it is noted that the features upon which applicant relies (i.e., size range and density of the foam layers in claim 1) are not

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recited in claim 1. Applicants failed to provide superior and unexpected results to show the criticality in having the three layers made of foamed material, EP '469 disclosed two foam layers. US '645 also disclosed two layers of foam and is relied upon for teaching the foam as polyurethane. The conclusion of obviousness under U.S.C. 103(a) does not require absolute predictability, only a reasonable expectation of success, and references are evaluated by what they suggest to one versed in the art, rather than by their specific disclosure. The art recognized the use of foamed layers in the eye patch and the effectiveness of having more than one foamed layers in the eye patch regarding its resiliency and light reflection, as well as absorbency and this would have motivate one having ordinary skill in the art to select any other layers in the eye patch to be foamed to add more comfortability to the patient. Thus, one having ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention would have been motivated to produce an occlusive patch consisting of three layers of foam material, and use the polyurethane of US '645, motivated by the teaching of US '645 that the two layers of foam provide very low reflectance, with reasonable expectation of success of the delivered patch as an ophthalmic light occlusive patch.

7. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Isis Ghali whose telephone number is (571) 272-0595. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Thursday, 7:00 to 5:30.

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If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Thurman Page can be reached on (571) 272-0602. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Isis Ghali
Examiner
Art Unit 1615

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ISIS GHALI
PATENT EXAMINER